WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   1.   A hydrogen absorbing alloy represented by the formula $Ln_{1-x}Mg_xNi_{y-a}Al_a$
2.   (where Ln is at least one element selected from rare
3.   earth elements, $0.05 \leq x < 0.20$, $2.8 \leq y \leq 3.9$ and $0.10 \leq a \leq$
4. 0.25).

1.   2.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1,
2.   wherein Y is contained in the rare earth elements.

1.   3.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1,
2.   further containing Zr.

1.   4.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 2,
2.   further containing Zr.

1.   5.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1,
2.   wherein the alloy further comprises at least one element selected
3.   from V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Cu, Si, P and
4.   B.

1.   6.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 2,
2.   wherein the alloy further comprises at least one element selected
3.   from V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Cu, Si, P and

4   B.

1   7.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 3,

2   wherein the alloy further comprises at least one element selected

3   from V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Cu, Si, P and

4   B.

1   8.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 4,

2   wherein the alloy further comprises at least one element selected

3   from V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Cu, Si, P and

4   B.

1   9.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1,

2   wherein an average particle diameter of the alloy is in a range of

3   65 ~ 200 µm.

1   10.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 2,

2   wherein an average particle diameter of the alloy is in a range of

3   65 ~ 200 µm.

1   11.   The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 3,

2   wherein an average particle diameter of the alloy is in a range of

3   65 ~ 200 µm.

1   12. The hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 4,

2   wherein an average particle diameter of the alloy is in a range of

3   65 ~ 200 μm.

1   13. An alkaline storage battery comprising a positive

2   electrode, a negative electrode and an alkaline electrolyte,

3   wherein the negative electrode comprises a hydrogen absorbing alloy

4   represented by the formula $Ln_{1-x}Mg_xNi_{y-a}Al_a$ (where Ln is at least one

5   element selected from rare earth elements, $0.05 \leq x < 0.20$, $2.8 \leq$

6    $y \leq 3.9$ and $0.10 \leq a \leq 0.25$).

1   14. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 13,

2   wherein Y is contained in the rare earth elements of the hydrogen

3   absorbing alloy.

1   15. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 13,

2   wherein the hydrogen absorbing alloy further contains Zr.

1   16. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 14,

2   wherein the hydrogen absorbing alloy further contains Zr.

1   17. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 13,

2   wherein the hydrogen absorbing alloy further comprises at least one

3   element selected from V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn,

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4   In, Cu, Si, P and B.

1   18.   The alkaline storage battery according to claim 14,
2   wherein the hydrogen absorbing alloy further comprises at least one
3   element selected from V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn,
4   In, Cu, Si, P and B.

1   19.   The alkaline storage battery according to claim 15,
2   wherein the hydrogen absorbing alloy further comprises at least one
3   element selected from V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn,
4   In, Cu, Si, P and B.

1   20.   The alkaline storage battery according to claim 16,
2   wherein the hydrogen absorbing alloy further comprises at least one
3   element selected from V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn,
4   In, Cu, Si, P and B.

1   21.   The alkaline storage battery according to claim 13,
2   wherein an average particle diameter of the hydrogen absorbing
3   alloy is in a range of 65 ~ 200 μm.

1   22.   The alkaline storage battery according to claim 14,
2   wherein an average particle diameter of the hydrogen absorbing
3   alloy is in a range of 65 ~ 200 μm.

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1   23. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 15,

2   wherein an average particle diameter of the hydrogen absorbing

3   alloy is in a range of 65 ~ 200 µm.

1   24. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 16,

2   wherein an average particle diameter of the hydrogen absorbing

3   alloy is in a range of 65 ~ 200 µm.

1   25. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 13,

2   wherein the amount of the alkaline electrolyte is 0.31 ml or less

3   per 1g of the hydrogen absorbing alloy.